

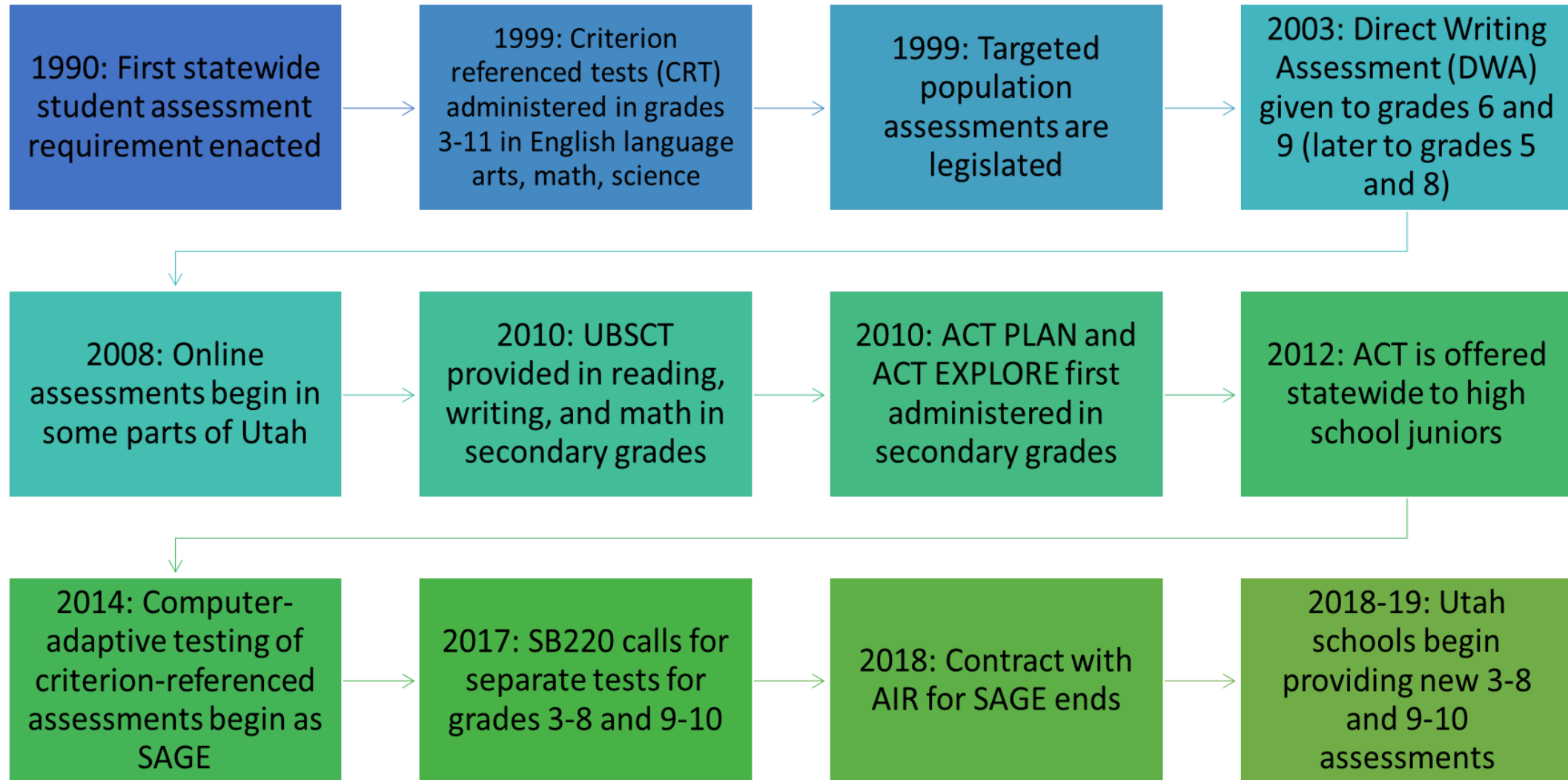
Assessment and Accountability

RISE Testing

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Testing in Utah: Historical Overview



Legislative context for grades 3-8:

53E-4-303 Utah Standards Assessments

The Board shall adopt a standards assessments that:

- (i) measures a student's proficiency in:
 - (A) mathematics for students in each of grades 3-8;
 - (B) English language arts for students in each of grades 3-8;
 - (C) science for students in each of grades 4 through 8; and
 - (D) writing for students in at least grades 5 and 8;

(Criterion referenced, aligned with core standards, administered online, computer adaptive)



RISE is composed of two primary elements

The Assessments
(Benchmark, Interim, Summative)

- a. Utah written questions
- b. Aligned to Utah Core
- c. Utah proficiency thresholds
- d. 5 yrs of comparative data

The delivery platform
(Nextera)

- a. Interface
- b. Software
- c. Servers
- d. Reports

The acquisition of the Standards Assessment consisted of three phases

1. Procurement

2. Contract Development

3. Implementation

Procurement

Date	Activity
March 3, 2017	RFP released, in accordance with procurement code
April 24, 2017	RFP Closed with four proposals received
October 13, 2017	USB E notified vendors of procurement award – Questar selected

Scoring Criteria

Minimum Mandatory Requirements		RFP Section	Evaluation (Pass/Fail)
I	Minimum Experience	MM	
II	Evidence of Alignment	MM	
III	Resumes	MM	
IV	Protection of Student Level Data	MM	
V	Functioning Product	MM	
VI	System Samples	MM	
VII	Disclosure	MM	
VIII	Travel Policy	MM	

The RFP scoring committee considered multiple elements in identifying the best solution for Utah.

Scoreable Technical Criteria (Technical Evaluation Points)		RFP Section	Evaluator Score (1-5)	Criteria Weight	% of Tech Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned	Minimum Required
I	Development	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
II	Delivery	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
III	Scoring	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
IV	Data Management and Exchanges	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
V	Reporting	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
VI	Technical Manual	TC		10	7.1%	50.0	0.0	
VII	Project Management	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
VIII	References	TC		10	7.1%	50.0	0.0	
					100.0%	700.0	0.0	0.0

Required Technical Point Threshold	RFP Section	Min Percent	Min Points Required	Points Earned	Percent Earned	Evaluation
	EVAL	70%	490.0	0.0	0.0%	

American Institutes for Research (AIR)

- Disclosed five incidents

Performance Matters

- Was eliminated for not meeting the mandatory minimum requirements

Pearson

- Disclosed four incidents plus one with a partner company

Questar

- Disclosed zero incidents but three with their parent company

The publicized incidents in other states all occurred after the disclosure period.



Contract Development

The contract provided the USBE the ability to:

1. Terminate for cause or convenience
2. Assess liquidated damages (defined as a contractual provision that determines in advance the measure of damages if a party breaches the agreement)
3. Seek other remedies



Contract Development

Date	Activity
October 14, 2017	USBE staff begin working with Questar to finalize the SOW and develop the associated contract
February 8, 2018	USBE approved the final contract
February 9, 2018	USBE/Questar sign the approved \$41,565,145 contract
Subsequent months	Two contract amendments were signed, totaling \$3,193,176.50

Implementation Problems

Questar experiences problems in Tennessee

– USBE requested response

April 27, 2018

Questar was unable to deliver formative tools

Oct 1, 2018

USBE staff provide Questar a list of identified concerns

Nov 8, 2018

Sept 18, 2018

USBE staff meet with Questar project leadership regarding various concerns

Nov 1, 2018

Questar was unable to deliver winter summative tests

Questar agrees to
providing additional
resource to resolve
rostering issues
Nov 27, 2018

USBE provides Questar
an assessment
readiness checklist
DEC 21, 2018

DEC 17, 2018

Questar provides assurances they
are taking the necessary steps to
deliver a fully operational
assessment system (response to
USBE concerns)

Jan 9, 2019

USBE arrange for a call with
Questar senior leadership to
address ongoing issues with the
Pre-ID files

Continued Implementation Problems

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The president of Questar
visits Utah to resolve
issues with pre-ID as well
as other issues
Jan 29, 2019

Questar's system
experiences a failure in
New York – Questar
provides incident report
April 2, 2019

March 22, 2019
USBE provides Questar a Notice
of Default and Notice to Cure due
to another missed deliverable and
other concerns

April 25, 2019
Utah experiences the first of 5
interruptions of service.
Questar provides an incident
report for each event

Discrepancies in student
test scores between on
demand and reports are
identified by USBE
April 30, 2019

USBE staff began extending
LEA's assessment windows
(more than 100 requests)
May 13, 2019

May 7, 2019
Pre-ID files failed to run and two
days later the UT Form assignment
process failed to run

May 16, 2019
USBE leadership meets with
Questar senior leadership to
consider termination of
Questar contract

May 17, 2019

**Questar notifies USBE that some students tests were inadvertently
reset – approximately 1,700**

- Questar Identifies June 14, 2019 as date that fixes for various problems will be implemented. **These fixes extended into July**
- Inadvertent test reset corrections
- Math Grade 6 test resets completed
- Test participation code “bug” fixes
- Other outstanding issues include:
 - Individual student score reports not correct
 - Above grade level test administration not working



Assessment Data

Questar scheduled to provide
USBE the final assessment
data file

~~July 15, 2019~~ ~~July 23~~ Aug 2

USBE and Questar complete
ELA standards validation

~~July 29-30, 2019~~

~~July 2019~~ September 2019

USBE conducts an analysis to determine
the effects of assessment changes on
calculating student growth

~~Aug 1, 2019~~ ~~August 30, ??~~

Questar provides USBE the
results of their impact study
(validated by independent
third party)

USBE staff holds Technical
Advisory Committee to
review analysis results and
prepare recommendation
~~Aug 12, 2019~~ September
11 & 12

USBE considers data analysis
and makes any related decisions
~~Sept 5, 2019~~ October 3

~~Aug 2019~~ September 10, 2019
Assessment and Accountability Policy
Advisory Committee reviews the TAC
recommendations

Dec 1, 2019
USBE publishes 2019 School
Report Card

Continued Assessment Data

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Emergency Procurement

USBE begins communications
with AIR to “stand up” the state
standards assessment (RISE)
June 2019

USBE approves AIR contract
Aug 1, 2019

July 25, 2019

USBE staff finalizes 3-year contract with
AIR to provide the delivery system for the
RISE tests

Oct 1, 2019

AIR makes assessment
system available to Utah
educators/students

Questar – Contract Termination

USBE signed a contract Amendment on August 1, 2019, detailing remaining tasks that Questar is expected to complete and establishing the maximum amount that is available, **subject to invoice correction, liquidated damages offset, and other adjustments.**

Payments made	\$6,997,329.00
Outstanding invoices	\$2,460,119
Remaining billable services	\$195,545
Total	\$9,652,993.00

Questar – Liquidated Damages

Categories & limits

Category	Limits
Service interruption – students	\$10,000 per hour/incident (\$50,000 per day)
Service interruption – administrative services	\$5,000/\$10,000 per day
Data delivery	\$40,000 per day



2019 Data – Impact of irregularities

Study	Responsible Party	Due Date
Analysis of impact of interruptions of service	Questar – validated by an independent 3 rd party	August 30, 2019 ?
Reliability comparative study at SEA, LEA, school, grade, subject, student group	USBE/LEA joint group	September 9, 2019
SGP calculation study	The Center for Assessment	September 9, 2019

2019 Data Continued

Activity	Purpose	Date
Assessment and Accountability Policy Advisory Committee (AAPAC) USBE Resolution 2016-2	Provide valuable insights by representing their stakeholder groups in advising the Board on assessment and accountability issues.	September 10, 2019
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Provide consultation services to USBE assessment and accountability staff in relation to state assessments and related accountability systems.	September 11 & 12, 2019
Utah State School Board	General control and supervision of the public education system.	October 3, 2019



2019 Data – How Many Students Were Impacted?

1. We incurred 5 days where the Questar system or a platform the system was dependent upon experienced interruptions of service.
Approximately 20,000 students per day were involved in testing at the time of the event and many more were indirectly impacted because their scheduled testing sessions were delayed.
2. 466 student tests were assigned a participation code of 111 (USBE excused) as a result of Nextera system interruptions.
3. Approximately 3,546 test event records do not have a score or a participation code. USBE and Questar are investigating the circumstances around these records.
4. We have 984,766 total student test event records with scale scores for 95.4% of the expected records.



Short-Term Contract Development

Date	Activity
August 1, 2019	USBE agrees to a three-year \$21,611,130.00 contract with the AIR to provide the delivery system for Utah's Standards Assessment (RISE)
October 1, 2019	Fall benchmark/interim RISE productivity tools available
November 1, 2019	Fall summative RISE assessments available
March 17, 2019	Spring summative RISE assessments available

Short-Term Solution - Assurances

1. AIR delivered the Utah standards assessment from 2014 – 2018 with relatively few incidents, none of which resulted in statewide interruptions of service.
2. AIR delivers grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics assessments in 20 states and territories, serving 34% of these students nationwide (57 million tests).
3. AIR provides the test delivery system behind other companies, including Educational Testing Services in California and The College Board to deliver the online SAT.
4. In 2018 AIR reached a peak concurrent load of 750,000 tests with an average latency of 100 milliseconds (most of these transactions were for computer-adaptive tests).



